

# Brookline Preservation Commission

## Demolition Application Report

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Address: **17 Yarmouth Road**

Petitioner: **Marjorie Kaplan, trustee for Nikroc LLC**

Type of Building(s): **house and pool cabana**

National Register Listing (if Applicable): N/A



### Preliminary Findings of Historical/Architectural Significance

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The house at 17 Yarmouth Road was built in 1955 for Ruth and Herbert Corkin and is still owned by the Corkin family. Mr. Corkin's recent obituary said that he was "born in Boston, resided in Chestnut Hill, and moved to Key Biscayne [and] was an officer and a gentleman. He was a veteran of WWII, and flew with the Flying Tigers under General Claire Chennault. He was Chairman and CEO of the Entwistle Company in Hudson, MA since 1954. Mr. Corkin was a philanthropist of many charities including Children's Hospital, The National Museum of Jewish Heritage, and Brimmer and May School."

This mid-century traditional style house has both Federal Revival and Moderne references in its understated detailing. Some of the unusually-shaped house's character-defining features include a rounded front entry porch with two stylized acanthus-leaved columns, low roof, narrow clustered windows and use of brick and wood to distinguish the front-facing facades from the more private sides of the home. The design was by architect A. Bela Sziklas.

Sziklas was born in Budapest and studied architecture at the Royal Technological College in Berlin. He emigrated to the US from London in the 1920s. Sziklas designed several schools in the region and introduced the idea of a five-sided classroom. Employed for a while by the Navy and the Federal Housing Authority, he modernized a number of state and federal buildings, including Worcester State Hospital and the Chelsea Naval Hospital. He died in 1989.



*View from upper driveway of house and garage (east)*



*south sides of house from lower part of driveway*

Sziklas designed the house at 17 Yarmouth Road for the Corkin family and a pool and cabana house a decade later in 1965, when the garage attached by a breezeway was enlarged to house three cars.

*pool and cabana in west sideyard*







The house and poolhouse retain their integrity in terms of their locations, settings, designs, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. They have been determined to be architecturally and historically significant according to criteria C and D of the demolition delay by-law:

c. The building is associated with...the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth;

d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as a part of a group of buildings.

